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Islanders win
Belmont bid,
headed
back to Nassau
County. 26



HOLLYWOOD FINDS ITS TUNE

The big-budget musical makes a comeback
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SECURING THE SEASON

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wake of the recent terror attacks,
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in and around New York City. 4

WELCOME TO METRO.US



JOE PANTORNO, SPORTS EDITOR

New York Islanders fans received the greatest holiday gift of all on Tuesday. Reports surfaced that Empire State Development chose the Islanders bid as the winner to develop the land near Belmont Race Track in Elmont. The organization now has the opportunity to build a long-term, hockey-first and modern home, something they have been deprived of for years. For more on their impending departure from Brooklyn, check out page 26 or at metro.us/sports.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



GERMANY ATTACK ANNIVERSARY

3 Germany commemorates the victims of last year's devastating Christmas market attack that claimed 12 lives and wounded 70.

NORTH KOREAN CYBER THREATS DISABLED

4 Facebook Inc. and Microsoft Corp. disabled a number of North Korean cyber threats last week, a White House official said on Tuesday, as the United States publicly blamed Pyongyang for a May cyber attack that crippled hospitals, banks and other companies. "Facebook took down accounts that stopped the operational execution of ongoing cyber attacks and Microsoft acted to

patch existing attacks, not just the WannaCry attack initially," White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said on Tuesday. Bossert did not provide details on the actions by the two American tech heavyweights but said the U.S. government was calling on other companies to cooperate in cyber security defense. Facebook said it also notified individuals in contact with these accounts.

EUROPE WARNS CHRISTMAS AIR TRAVELLERS

5 European aviation safety authorities have urged airlines to remind passengers about how best to transport electronic devices containing lithium ion batteries over the busy Christmas travel period. Lithium ion batteries, found in devices such as laptops, mobile phones, tablets, and electronic cigarettes, are seen as a fire risk, and there are concerns that if a fire were to

start in the hold of a plane, it could not easily be extinguished. EASA said that where such items are too large to be carried in the cabin, then they must be completely switched off, protected from accidental activation, and packaged suitably to avoid damage. They should also not be carried in the same bag as flammable items such as perfume or aerosols.

TAX BILL HITS SNAGS IN APPROVAL PROCESS

2 Sweeping U.S. tax legislation appears to be on the verge of approval, lifting the prospects in particular for banks, telecoms, transports and other industries that stand to gain the most from lower corporate tax rates. The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives hit a last-minute snag on Tuesday in their drive to approve the legislation favored by President Donald

Trump. The plan on Capitol Hill was for the Senate to delete three offending provisions in the House version and vote on the bill, then send it back to the House for a vote on Wednesday. The bill slashes the corporate income tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent. That would boost overall earnings for S&P 500 companies by 9.1 percent, according to UBS equity strategists. *For more, see page 10.*

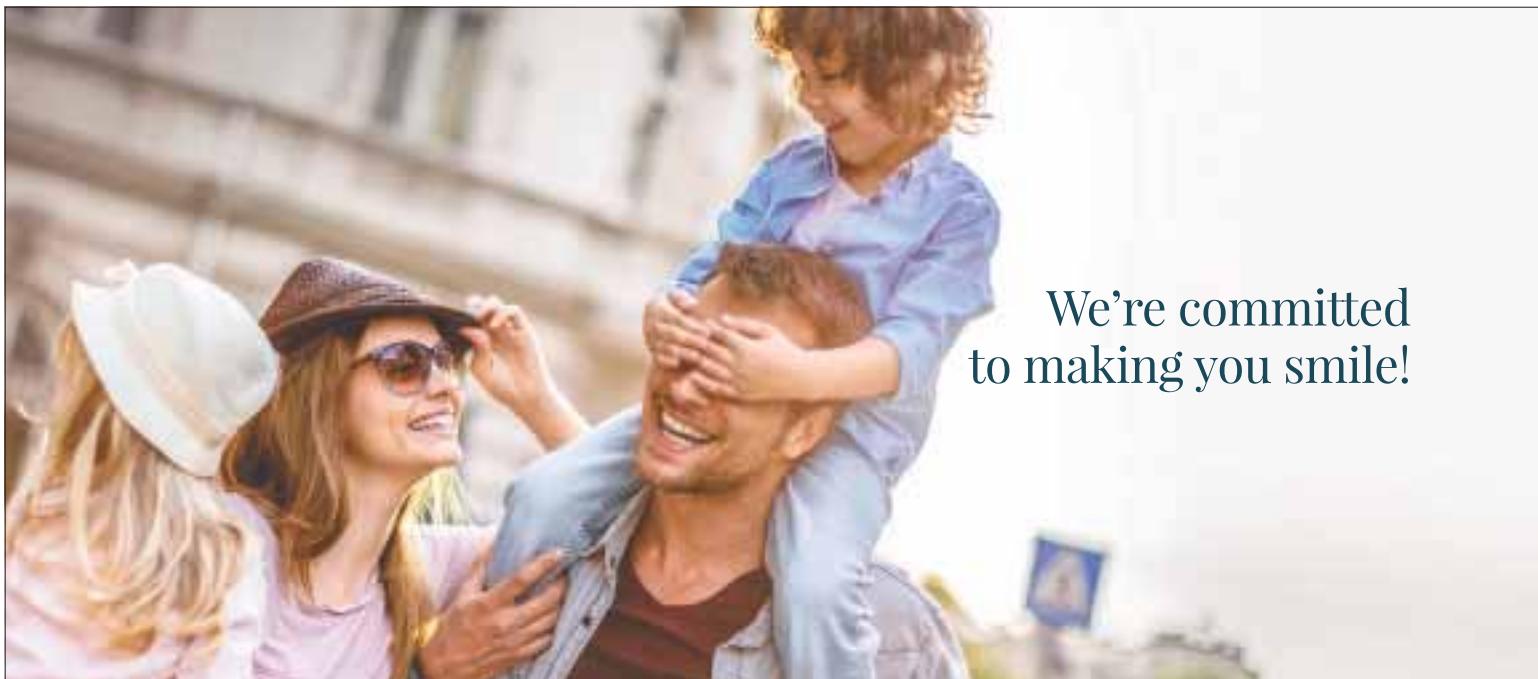
RATING

35%

Just 35 percent of Americans in the poll released say they approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president. Trump's approval ratings continue to be the lowest for any modern president at this point in his presidency.

Source: CNN





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Cuomo adding law-enforcement patrols in the city for holidays

"Tensions have been heightened," the governor said.



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New York City is about to get a little more crowded as the holiday season winds down, but the extra bodies won't just be tourists or visiting family. They'll be extra law enforcement courtesy of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

According to the New York Post, the governor is deploying "hundreds" of extra state, MTA and Port Authority police officers as well as troops from the National Guard in the wake of two recent terror attacks in the city, though he said the added safety measure is "all precautionary."

"This is something

we're doing strategically. There is no specific threat," Cuomo told the paper Monday night.

The extra law-enforcement deployment, which will work in unison with the NYPD and federal authorities, began Tuesday at Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal, the nine MTA-operated bridges and tunnels, Port Authority Hudson crossings and at both LaGuardia and JFK airports.

The personnel includes bomb-sniffing dogs, increased surveillance of high-profile areas and rapid radiation response vehicles, Cuomo said.

In the span of 41 days, two terror attacks occurred in the city. The first was on Halloween morning, when Sayfullo Saipov drove a rented truck down a bike path in Lower Manhattan, killing eight people and injuring



Citing heightened tensions in the wake of the recent terror attacks, Gov. Andrew Cuomo is strategically deploying extra law enforcement in and around New York City. GETTY IMAGES

a dozen others.

The second occurred last Monday when Akayed Ullah detonated an improvised explosive device in an underground pedestrian passageway between Times Square and Port Au-

thority, severely injuring himself and three others.

After both incidents, the NYPD ramped up its presence in many high-profile areas of the city, including the Halloween parade and subway and

rail stations.

"There's no doubt we had two terror attacks in two months," Cuomo said, calling both "lone-wolf attacks." "There's no doubt that tensions have been heightened."

SAFETY PRIMER

A "See Something Say Something" primer

We may have extra boots on the ground to keep New Yorkers safe this holiday season, but law enforcement can't see or prevent everything — that's where you and "See Something Say Something" comes in.

But when should you say something and what, exactly, should you be looking for?

Unusual items or situations to start, according to the Department of Homeland Security. This could be a vehicle parked in an odd location, unattended luggage or packages or other "out-of-the-ordinary situations."

Another red flag is someone who is interested in a building's operations, security procedures or staff shift changes.

You should alert authorities if you observe someone doing unusual surveillance, such as with binoculars or cameras or in a secluded location.

Once you're ready to say something, be specific. Tell officials who or what you saw, when you saw it, where you saw it and why you found it suspicious — be sure to include as many details about the person, including their description, mannerisms or vehicle.

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SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Sexual misconduct outcry makes US lawyers rethink confidentiality

The wave of sexual misconduct allegations made against dozens of powerful men in recent weeks is causing lawyers to rethink how they handle such cases, including the longstanding use of confidentiality agreements.

As more women, and sometimes men, speak out, settlement deals with non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) that bar victims from discussing past claims

of harassment or abuse have come under fire, with many lawmakers and advocacy groups now arguing they should be abolished.

Lawyers who represent plaintiffs and defendants in harassment cases said they had previously assumed NDAs, which are rarely breached, would be upheld in court if challenged. But now there is a greater probability courts could void such agreements deeming them against the public interest.

"I'd be surprised to find a lawyer who is confident in the

enforceability of an NDA right now," says Ron Shechtman, head of the employment law practice at law firm Pryor Cashman, which represents employers.

Several lawyers said they are more likely now to recommend executives or other high-profile individuals facing misconduct claims step down rather than try to defend themselves or make the allegations go away.

But lawyers say weakening confidentiality could have consequences for accusers too. Settle-

ments could be smaller without a promise of secrecy. Confidentiality agreements, at least in some cases, can also prevent men accused of misconduct from falsely characterizing claims against them.

Plaintiffs' lawyers said that their advice may vary more depending on clients' goals. Some may want to go public so harassers cannot claim new victims, said New York lawyer Douglas Wigdor. Others, however, "want confidentiality just as much as the person who harassed them." REUTERS

Fourteen public schools tapped for closure: DOE

Closures include the Bronx school where a student was fatally stabbed in September and nine in the mayor's renewal program.



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More than a dozen public schools are facing impending closure, the city's Department of Education announced Monday.

The closing schools include nine that are in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Renewal School Program, which aimed to improve 86 low-performing schools, and the Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation in the Bronx, where a student fatally stabbed another student in September.

Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina told CBS2 that Wildlife Conservation's enrollment was among several factors taken into consideration for its closure.

"Students have asked to leave," she said, adding that no more than five students cited it as their first choice for next year. "In terms of trauma, it's going to be more and more difficult and by an-

ticipation for this is that by closing it and allowing the kids to go elsewhere that we'll actually be offering them and the staff a better opportunity."

On Sept. 27, 18-year-old Abel Cedeno admitted to fatally stabbing Matthew McCree, 15, in a fifth-floor classroom. Ariane Laboy, 16, was also stabbed in the altercation. Cedeno later said was self-defense after he was bullied.

Five of the renewal schools will be merged. In addition to Wildlife Conservation, the slated-to-be-closed schools are:

- PS 050 Vito Marcantonio
- Coalition School for Social Change
- High School for Health Careers and Sciences
- New Explorers High School
- Urban Science Academy
- PS 92 Bronx School
- Brooklyn Collegiate: A College Board School
- PS/MS 42 R. Vernam
- MS 53 Brian Piccolo
- KAPPA IV
- Academy for Social Action
- Felisa Rincon de Gautier Institute
- Eubie Blake School

"We're not giving up. We are just tweaking a little bit about where the support is needed," Farina said.



Urban Assembly School for Wildlife Conservation, where a student was fatally stabbed in September, is among the public schools tapped for closure by the NYC DOE. [GOOGLE MAPS](#)

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Demand Soars At NYC Medical Clinic

Can This Medical Technology Possibly Eliminate Or Reduce Back & Neck Pain?

The Advanced Medical Treatment Every Back & Neck Pain Sufferer Needs To Know About

NYC Pain MD is a medical clinic with two locations in New York City that has made a name for itself by treating the worst cases of back or neck pain.

Here is what every back and neck pain sufferer who has failed to respond to other treatments and does not want surgery should know about one of the best treatment options available today for severe back and neck pain including when, why and where you should consider this treatment to get maximum results.

If you suffer with back, neck or nerve pain, you have probably already tried *many* treatments ... especially countless pain medications.

Experienced doctors understand that even though pain medications such as anti-inflammatory pain pills are part of the recommended early treatment plan for back pain... they are rarely the answer.

In most cases they have minimal, short term results (if any) and have a laundry list of potential side effects. Some being serious and even life threatening.

Are there any better options?

Thankfully, advancements in science and technology come extremely fast. And now there is very good option to help relieve the pain.

An option that a lot of back and neck pain sufferers may have never heard of before.

Before we get into these

treatments, please understand this...

NYC Pain MD is a REAL medical clinic that has treated the worst cases of back pain. Patients travel from all over to be treated at one of their clinics for all sorts of joint and muscle pain because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover is a REAL medical treatment. Not some miracle cure you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: There is no one treatment that will help every case of back pain. And we cannot guarantee this treatment will work for you. But this treatment has already helped countless back and neck pain sufferers who had given up hope. I bet many just like you.

What is this treatment? It's called...

Radiofrequency Neurotomy
"Radiofrequency Neurotomy" is often referred to as RF for short. Just what is "RF".

RF is a procedure that is based on the concept that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

There are many nerves around your spine and one of their jobs is to sense PAIN.

Radiofrequency waves are delivered to these nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves and slow down the pain

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease

pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, the Radio Frequency Neurotomy is scheduled and performed for longer term relief.

What Results Can You Expect?

Like all real medical procedures... results vary for individual patients. No good and ethical doctor would guarantee any exact results for any procedure... that's just not how things work and it would be less than honest.

That's being said, it is not uncommon for patients to get complete, if not significant relief of their pain shortly after the treatment.

How Long Do The Results Last?

This procedure "impacts" the nerves pain signals... it does not destroy them. Therefore, the results are safe but not completely permanent. But, many patients get relief for 6 months... 12 months.... 18 months for some even longer. The great news is - another procedure can be safely preformed for more relief if necessary.

While we cannot claim this is a complete "permanent cure" ... it can be a godsend for so many who were in constant pain.

Really... what would it be worth if you could get out of pain for long enough so you could start enjoying your everyday life again?

Would it be worth it to be

able to finally get a good night's sleep again?

How about being able to go for a simple walk or just do your basic daily chores without worrying about so much pain?

Is It Safe?

Yes. This procedure has been done countless times and continues to have an excellent safety record. It is minimally invasive and is *not surgical*.

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti - inflammatory pain medication and physical therapy do not offer good enough results.

RF has also been found effective AFTER back surgery when patient's still feel pain.

The pain after a failed back surgery can be debilitating for some and this procedure may be the only thing that helps give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain And The "X" Factor

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

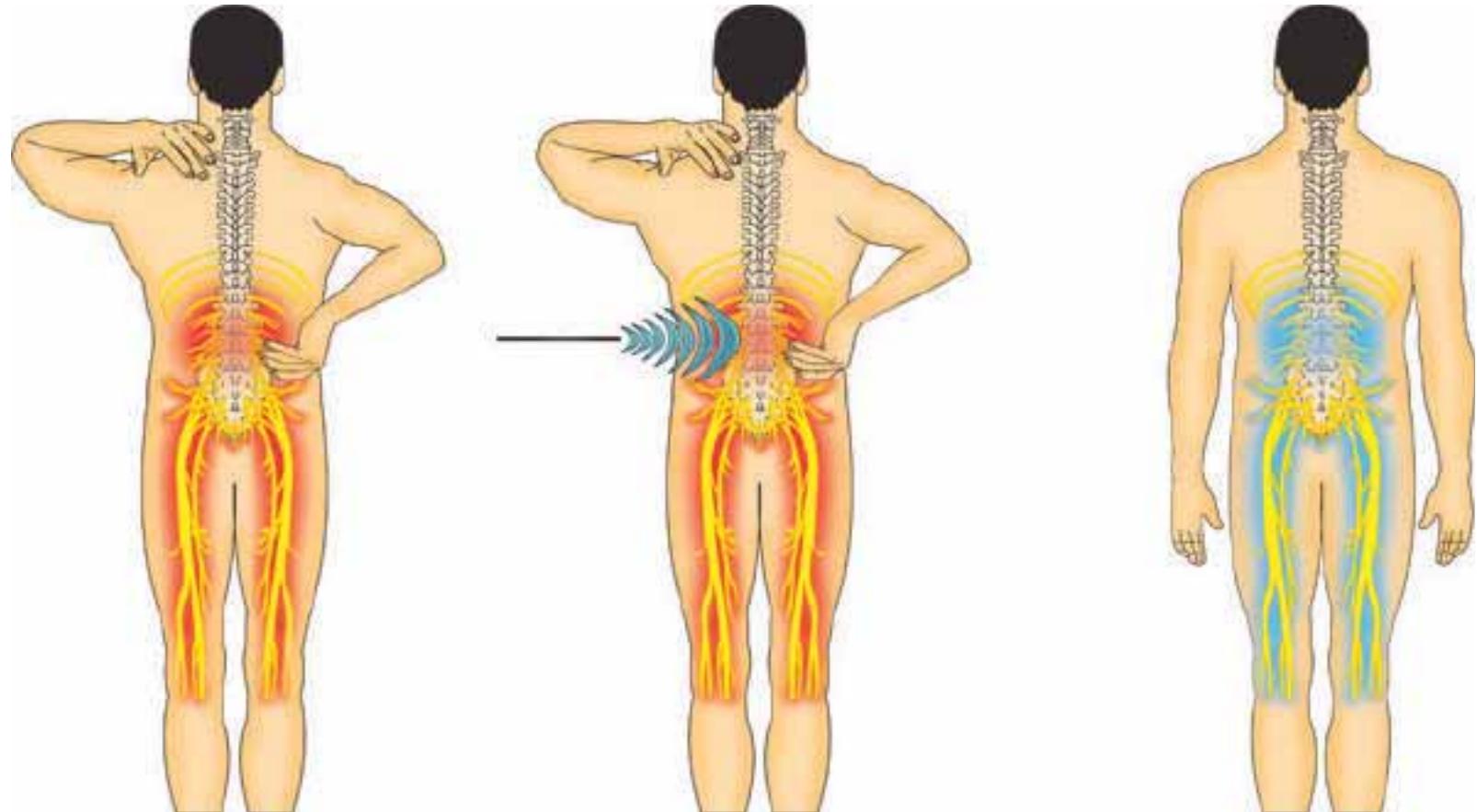
Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof without the need for a surgical center or hospital.

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Science rescues back & neck pain sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many

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NYC Pain MD believes this

additional "X" factor is one of the reasons so many back pain sufferers travel from all over to be treated at their advanced medical center.

Your Invitation

NYC Pain MD offers limited number of complimentary back and neck pain screenings every month. These screenings are a way for pain sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are candidate for one of the cutting-

edge treatments offered at NYC Pain MD. If you would like complimentary screening, just call 877-503-8540 and tell the scheduling co-ordinator who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary back pain screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

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Call 877-503-8540 for your free screening and find out if you can get out of pain today

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Banks, healthcare service firms among winners in tax bill

Sweeping tax legislation appeared to be on the verge of approval on Tuesday night, lifting the prospects in particular for banks, telecoms, transports and other industries that stand to gain the most from lower corporate tax rates.

The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives hit a last-minute snag on Tuesday in their drive to approve the legislation favored by President Donald Trump. The plan on Capitol Hill was for the Senate to delete three offending provisions in the House version and vote on the bill, then send it back to the House for a vote on Wednesday.

The industries that stand to benefit most from the new tax rates are telecoms, transportation, retail and banks, analysts said.

Healthcare
Domestically geared



Legislators on Capitol Hill will vote on the tax bill on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

healthcare companies that focus on services are poised to benefit from the lower tax rate.

Hospital operator Universal Health Services Inc., testing company Quest Diagnostics Inc. and wholesaler Cardinal Health Inc. are among the service companies set to benefit the most, according to Mizuho Securities.

Banks
Banks are expected to be among the biggest winners from a lower tax rate. The S&P 500 banks index has soared 9 percent since mid-November

as the tax bill began moving swiftly through Congress. Of the major S&P sectors, financials pay the highest effective tax rate at 27.5 percent, according to Wells Fargo.

Tech
One area where large tech companies could benefit is by spending cash held overseas for stock buybacks that boost earnings per share. UBS points to Cisco Systems Inc. and Qualcomm Inc. as companies that could see among the biggest buyback boosts.

REUTERS



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White House temporarily shuts down the 'We the People' online petition site

Administration says the page is under maintenance and will be back up in late January.



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"We the People," a website launched by the Obama administration to fast-track petitions to White House staff, has been temporarily shut down.

The Associated Press reported that the platform will return in late January as a new site and that the move will save taxpayers \$1.3 million a year, according to one White House official.

This comes less than a week after the White House revamped their website, WhiteHouse.gov.



The White House is revamping their petition site. WE THE PEOPLE WEB ARCHIVE

"[The new site] adapts the U.S. web design standards and uses a style that is clean, simple and presidential," a White House official told the Washington Examiner. It was estimated by this official that the redesign could save taxpayers up to \$3 million annually, a benchmark reportedly separate from the "We the People" maintenance savings.

According to Huffing

ton Post, the White House is supposed to issue a response to any petition created on "We the People" if it collects over 100,000 signatures within 30 days.

However, the Trump administration has failed to respond to the 17 petitions that have merited that attention, such as one calling on Trump to release his tax returns and one, even, calling for his resignation.

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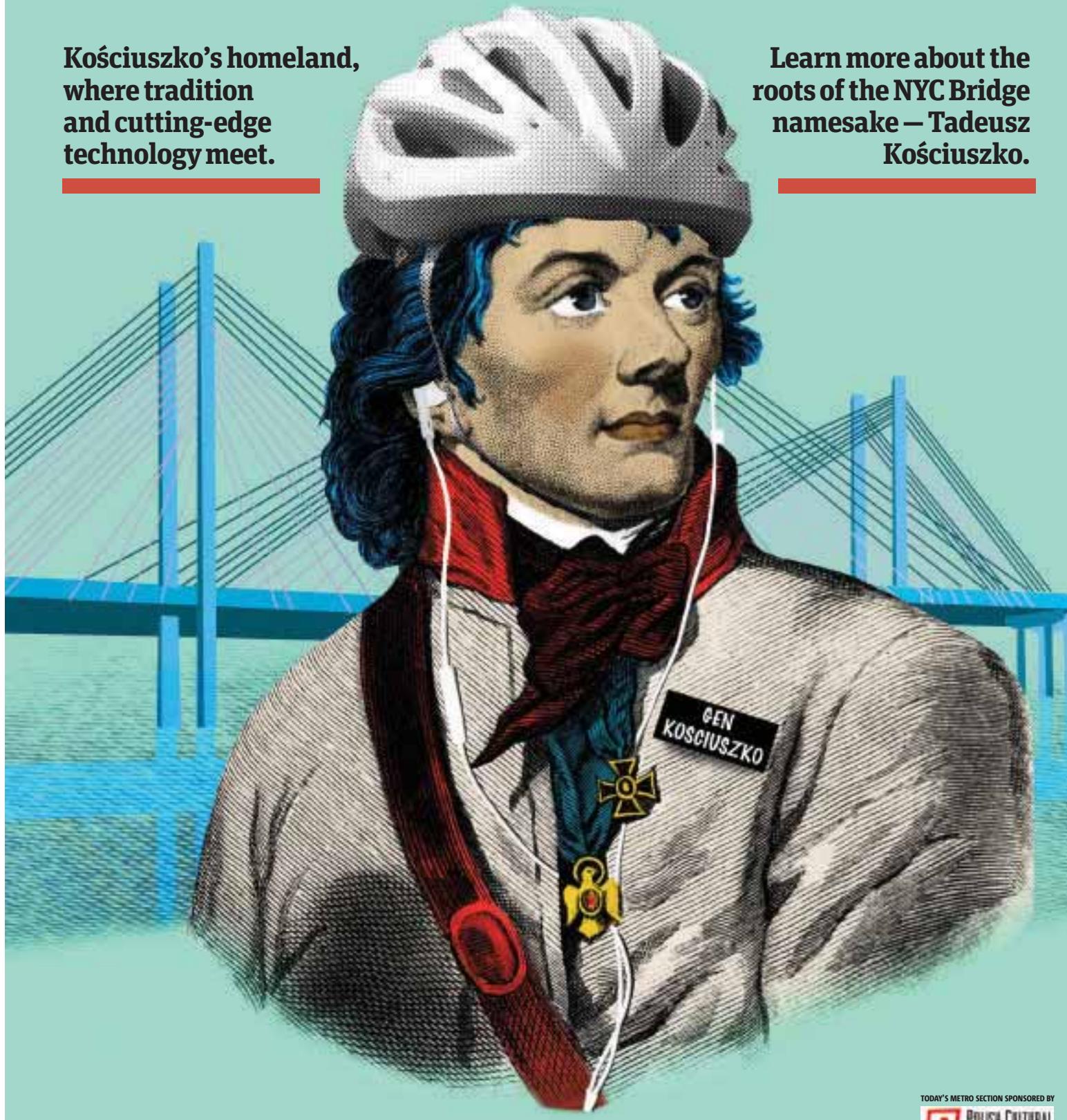
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technology meet.

Learn more about the
roots of the NYC Bridge
namesake – Tadeusz
Kościuszko.



Tadeusz Kościuszko, Poland's American Hero

Thomas Jefferson called him: "As pure a son of liberty as I have ever known."

TRISTAN RUTHERFORD
features@metro.us

He was the Polish and American hero who built West Point. The immigrant engineer who launched the world's first firework display on July 4th. And the humanitarian who called for the emancipation of both slaves in the United States and serfs in Europe.

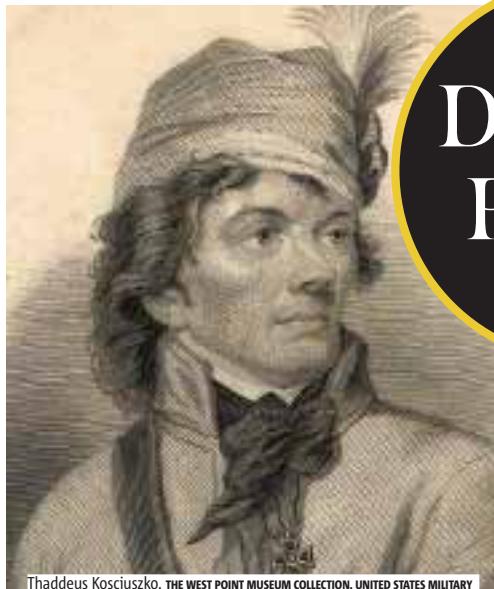
This year UNESCO celebrated the 200th anniversary of the passing of Tadeusz Kościuszko. And for good reason—he's the soldier with more monuments across America than anyone but George Washington.

Back in 1777, the Battle of Saratoga was the tipping point in the American Revolutionary War against the British. As the Continental Army retreated across the Hudson River, Kościuszko had scouted out a defensive redoubt for a last-ditch battle.

Bemis Heights was the site he fortified. On October 7, five thousand Red-coats stumbled through forests straight into American lines. It was a small battle, perhaps, but the pivot in a global conflict.

News of the subsequent surrender of British General Burgoyne spread like wildfire. French King Louis XVI weighed in with loans, arms, soldiers and supplies for the Americans, giving them the longevity to run a war of attrition that would force the British back across the Atlantic.

"Kościuszko always stood up for the little guy," says Alex Storozynski, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Kościuszko. In his book *The Peasant Prince: and the Age of Revolution*, he tells the story of an African slave who had been captured by the British.



Thaddeus Kościuszko. THE WEST POINT MUSEUM COLLECTION, UNITED STATES MILITARY

Discover
Poland



West Point Military Academy campus. GETTY IMAGES

"As Kościuszko had a British officer in custody, he suggested a (one-for-one) exchange for the slave."

Kościuszko returned to Europe after the Revolutionary War.

In time, an even more pressing threat arose on the horizon. Kościuszko's call for liberty terrified Poland's neighbors. After Poland proclaimed the first Constitution in Europe and the second in the world in 1791, Russia invaded with overwhelming force.

Kościuszko's military know-how, acquired on the battlefields of New York State, came to the fore. He lost not a single battle, winning the Virtuti Militari—the equivalent of the American Medal of Honor, it remains Poland's highest military decoration.

But playing politics was never Kościuszko's game. He stood aside as cynical deals with Poland's neighbors—Russia, Prussia, and Austria—steadily reduced the country's size. Russian and Austrian authorities hunted him as he passed through Zamość, Kraków

and Wrocław (today three of Poland's most beautiful cities, and each a UNESCO heritage site).

He returned to Poland in 1794 to wage war against his nation's occupiers. It became known as the Kościuszko Uprising.

Such was his personality that volunteers flocked to join him. In the forests near Kraków, he personally led a peasant infantry charge that struck the first blow against Russian might.

After defending the Polish capital of Warsaw, he battled an overwhelming Russian force near the

village of Maciejowice. Three horses were shot out from under him before Cossack irregulars stabbed him from behind. The Russians were victorious, and after the battle they searched the corpses lying in the mud for the wounded Polish commander. But Kościuszko had survived, and was carried from the battlefield in a peasant's robe, before later being captured.

Kościuszko was a man of his word. When he was released by Tsar Paul, he promised never again to fight against Russia. Years later he was courted by

Napoleon, but never trusted the Great Conqueror. Kościuszko preferred to remain a living symbol of the Revolutionaries' slogan—Liberty, Equality, Fraternity—than to be an oath-breaker.

Even in death, Kościuszko championed equal rights. In his will, he decreed that all of his estate go to his "friend Thomas Jefferson to employ the whole thereof in purchasing negroes from among his own as any others and [give] them liberty." He asked for his funds to pay for the education of these

newly-freed people, and by doing so sent a clear message not only to Jefferson, but to the entire world. In 1817, the year Kościuszko died, New York passed a law abolishing slavery.

With this defeat the Polish nation was erased from the map for 123 years. But today his name graces Australia's highest mountain, an island in Alaska, and a thousand streets, squares and parks around the world. Thanks to his heroism in the United States and Poland, Kościuszko has not been forgotten.

The Kościuszko Bridge Cocktail

The Kościuszko Bridge is a cocktail created for 'The Vodka Contract,' a special event from the Spring Spirits series at Brooklyn's Museum of Food & Drink (MOFAD) under the auspices of the Polish Cultural Institute New York. This aromatic concoction is a melding of the Polish herbal Bison Grass vodka, Żubrówka, with New York's own Dorothy Parker Gin, and a splash of Doc's Draft Cider. Created by Joel Lee Kulp of Grand Ferry tavern in Brooklyn, it's the perfect drink to ring in the New Year.

The Kościuszko Bridge

- 1oz Żubrówka (Bison Grass Vodka)
- 1oz NY Distilling Dorothy Parker Gin
- 1oz Doc's Draft Cider

Combine all ingredients, stir, and serve over ice in a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with dry bison grass or rhubarb peel.

PHOTO BY WERONIKA KWIATKOWSKA





ALL PHOTOS BY WERONIKA KWIAKOWSKA, I-STOCK



The absolute best of Polish eats

Poland's cuisine is the star of Central Europe.



MARK BAKER
features@metro.us



Pierogi

Mixing the heartiness of German cooking with some of the more exotic elements of Russian and traditional Jewish deliciousness, Polish food is surprisingly inventive. Polish dishes developed over the years from what can actually be grown or raised in the country's harsh, northern climate, and the food is almost always seasonal, local and sustainable.

Dumplings (pierogi)

Thanks to their popularity among Poland's long-standing immigrant population, pierogi are as closely associated with

well, these days, just about anything goes. In addition to the classics, we've seen fruit fillings, mushrooms, cheeses and even bison meat.

Potato pancakes (placki)

A comfort-food cousin to pierogi (and similar to Jewish latke), Polish placki are nearly as well known and just as delicious. The key to the perfect potato pancake is in the grating, and the finer the better. The grated potatoes are usually mixed with flour and egg, and flavored with onion or garlic. They're fried to a crispy brown in a shallow layer of oil over the stove, and eaten — as a snack or side — with a shake of salt and dollop of sour cream.

Sausage (kielbasa)

Kielbasa is another Polish word that's entered



Kielbasa

the English language through the stomach. Poland has an infinite variety of sausages, and it would take a month to try them all. Traditionally, kiełbasa is made from pork meat, often spiced with garlic and pepper (and spices like marjoram or caraway seed), though beef and veal varieties are popular as well. Like pierogi, kielbasa is another equal-opportunity delight — enjoyed both at home as the centerpiece of a special meal or served simply (with a side of brown bread and mustard) from a

roadside stand as a mid-morning or after-work snack.

Pickle soup

Soups are an important part of every Polish meal, and there are as many Polish soups as days on the calendar, but ... have you heard of one made out of pickles? Shelves and shelves with jars of cucumbers in brine had a special place in every Polish home in the '70s and '80s. You could eat crunchy pickles on the side, or you could cut them up to make a delicious dill and garlic soup. Many families stopped making their own pickles, but this soup never will go out of style.

Vodka

It's no secret that Poles love their vodka (wódka), and a bottle of high-octane

spirit is a familiar sight on any Polish dining table. Vodka is normally drunk neat as a shot, and can be taken before, during, or after a meal. Outside of meal times, a gulp of vodka is normally followed up by a bite of pickle, bread or herring.

For years, Poles mostly favored the clear, unflavored varieties, but these days fruit-infused and spiced vodkas are having something of a moment. Look out for vodkas flavored with lemon, cherry, pepper and, one of our recent favorites, quince. An old standby, żubrówka (or "bison vodka"), is a rye-based distillation, uniquely flavored with a blade of bison grass from the country's pristine Białowieża Forest. It makes a killer cocktail when mixed with apple juice.

Multicultural holiday flavors

A traditional Polish spread reflects global tastes.

The pace and style of life is changing very quickly in Poland, but what hasn't changed is our weakness for good food.

The holiday season is a time when people recall the flavors of their childhood and peer into our grandmothers' yellowing notebooks to hunt down our favorite special dishes. We've maintained the holidays' spirit, but in Poland that represents a colorful mosaic of customs, traditions and aromas from different times and places in the world.

Polish Christmas dishes include many ingredients which played a huge role in ancient Slavic culture. Kutia — a sweet dish made from wheat,



Red borscht
WERONIKA KWIAKOWSKA

poppy seeds, nuts and honey is especially popular in the East of Poland, and for centuries has symbolized wishes of good luck and wellbeing.

We also owe our Slavic ancestors the custom of leaving one seat open at the Christmas table — long ago, the empty place-setting was reserved for the ghosts of dead family members, and now it awaits an unexpected guest whom we might invite to join us.

Another ancient Slavic tradition is gingerbread

derived from sweet midowniak — a honey-based cake always baked on special occasions.

The recipe for the first pierogi, a dish which actually comes from China, made its way to Poland in the 13th century thanks to St. Jacek Odrowąż (1183-1257). Today it's hard to imagine a Christmas table without cabbage and mushroom pierogi, or red borscht

with small ear-shaped dumplings known as uszki.

According to tradition, at a Polish Christmas Eve dinner no meat products are eaten. But there's no shortage of fish.

Herring with onions, herring with cream and herring with spices — every region in the country, and even every house, has its own favorite herring recipe. Carp is just as popular — fried, stewed and as gefilte fish (sweet and jellied). This Jewish cuisine has made its way into the canon of traditional Polish Christmas Eve dishes, regardless of its religious background.

MAGDALENA TOMASZEWSKA BOLEK,
TRANSLATED BY SEAN GASPER BYE

Ready for a taste?

Here are two of our favorite winter recipes.

Red Borscht

- 5 cups water
- 2 cups beet leaven
- 5-6 medium-sized beets
- 1 medium-sized parsley root
- 1 small carrot
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 grains of allspice

Salt and pepper

Peel the beets, carrot, parsley root and garlic. Cut the beets in half. Put the vegetables in a pot and pour in the water. Bring to a boil and cook on medium heat for 30-35 minutes. Remove the vegetables and add the bay leaves and allspice, and salt and pepper to taste. Boil the broth on high heat for 15 minutes. Mix the boiled broth with the beet leaven. Serve your borscht with uszka dumplings.

Uszka dumplings

- 2/3 cup wheat flour
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 1 egg
- 3-4 tablespoons of oil
- A pinch of salt
- 3 tablespoons dried mushrooms
- 1 medium-sized onion
- Black pepper

Pour flour and salt into a bowl, add 1-2 tablespoons of oil, egg and water (leave a little water in the measuring cup). Knead the dough; if it's too dry, add the remaining water. Now, boil, strain and dry the mushrooms. Once dry, cut the mushrooms into small pieces and chop the onion. Fry both ingredients in a pan, then add salt and pepper to taste. Roll the dough into a thin sheet and cut into small circles. Put in the filling, stick the edges together and crimp the edges of the dough. The dumplings should look similar to tortellini. Boil them in salted water. Dry them, then transfer them to a soup dish and pour the red borscht over them.



TODAY'S METRO SECTION SPONSORED BY
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Poland's world beating video game industry

It's even inspired a new Netflix show!

TRISTAN RUTHERFORD
features@metro.us

Though now a world leader when it comes to tech and video entertainment, Poland had a very low-fi intro to the industries.

"Under communism we couldn't visit our European neighbors, let alone the United States," says Maciej Matyka, a physics professor at Wrocław University. "So computers imported by Polish relatives, like Commodore's VIC-20 or Amiga, became our passports to another world."

Cassette games were mailed from abroad. Radio stations broadcast squeaks of code, which could be recorded, then played as video games. In lean times users had to develop their own titles using rudimentary code. In this socialist network, the seeds of Poland's coding revolution were sown.

Out of a population of 39 million, 12 million Poles are now gamers — nearly a third of the nation. Each spends \$65 per year on video games, 30%

of that on their phones.

Those figures are dwarfed by global sales. The Polish gaming business nets 95% of its revenue from exports abroad — as PlayStation discs, Xbox games, PC downloads or mobile apps.

The most successful of these is "The Witcher" from leading Polish developer CD Projekt. A phantasmagoric cross between "Game of Thrones" and "The Hobbit," the game's most recent version clocked millions of sales a week, topping charts in most of the 100 countries it was released in.

Like other Polish creations, "The Witcher" is as intelligent as it is entertaining. Our hero, Geralt of Rivia (imagine a morally ambiguous Thor with Donatella Versace's hair), conducts insightful conversations with zombie-fied children. Years were devoted to voice recordings alone, while the movie-style soundtrack was recorded in Germany by the Brandenburg State Orchestra.

In short, gameplay isn't only about slashing orcs with swords, although "The Witcher" has its fair share of blood, mud and homicide. The



Premiere, and the first customers buying game "The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt." Poland, Warsaw. GETTY IMAGES

writer of fantasy drama "Daredevil," Lauren Schmidt Hissrich, signed up to produce a series of the show for Netflix in 2017.

Dr Matyka claims that tech teaching has placed Poland in the global gaming league. "Our math, computing and physics courses are genuinely among the best in the world." In the global HackerRank, a worldwide programming league table, Krakow's Jagiellonian University comes a close second to a Russian science school — far ahead of Cal Berkeley, Georgia Tech or any Chinese and Indian college.

The economics of Eastern Europe also help Poland's 330 game development firms. The average Polish salary is \$900 per month (it's \$3,300 in the US); entrance to Poznań Game Arena, one of Europe's largest and most riotous video game festivals, costs \$7, whereas tickets for the more sedate PAX gaming event in Boston cost \$53.

Poland also hosts the Intel Extreme Masters, the largest eSports event in the world. Here combined crowds of 100,000 spectators watch players battle over a \$750,000 purse in a digital universe during a three-day geek

fest, held in the city of Katowice.

The Polish Cultural Institute New York evidently sees video games as an export star. That's why along with the support of the Embassy of Poland in Washington it's flying Dr Matyka and his computing colleague Grzegorz Juraszek to MagFest this January to showcase demo-scene and conduct live real-time coding workshop.

The offbeat tech fiesta features video musicians and gaming historians, as well as demo-scene demonstrations. The latter is the art of producing audio-visual shows on basic

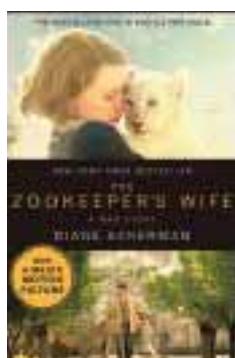
Discover Poland

computers using the rawest of code. And Juraszek is a demo-scene demigod.

The demo-scene movement has its roots in the pre-WiFi world of home computing — the programmable IBMs and Amigas that Poles were still using when the US had the latest Nintendo consoles.

The same anti-establishment ethos is purveyed by indie gaming companies in Poland's leading tech cities Warsaw and Krakow. A case in point is "This War of Mine" by 11 bit studios, released to global acclaim on PlayStation 4 and Xbox One last year.

Based on the Siege of Sarajevo in 1990s Bosnia, the strategy game controls civilians dodging hunger, snipers and other atrocities in a war-torn city. UK newspaper The Guardian called it "gruelling but beautiful." Like the rest of Poland's most intelligent industry, it's a long way from the thoughtless slaughter-fest "Call of Duty."



Film
A 2017 film, "Zookeeper's Wife" by Niki Caro tells an extraordinary story of how fearless Polish couple Antonina Żabińska (portrayed by two-time Academy Award nominee Jessica Chastain) and her husband, Dr. Jan Żabiński (Johan Heldenbergh of "The Broken Circle Breakdown") rescued

Poland's rich culture and history is a subject for artists on both sides of the Atlantic. Here are some of our top recommendations.

about 300 Jews from the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust by hiding them in their villa and in empty animal cages in their zoo. You can visit the real-life villa on your next visit to Warsaw.

Books
Swallowing Mercury by

Violetta Greg
Translated by
Eliza Marciniak
Transit Books, 2017
"Achieves a form of literary alchemy that mesmerizes." — The New York Times

Greg's debut novel is a beautifully-written coming of age story. With a poetic voice and a sharp eye for detail, Greg high-

Poland in culture

lights the joy and hardship of growing up in the Polish countryside in the late 1980s. Swallowing Mercury was longlisted for the Man Booker International Prize — only the second Polish novel ever to receive that honor.

History of a Disappearance by Filip Springer
Translated by
Sean Gasper Bye
Restless Books, 2017
"A great book, a superb work of intelligence." — Christian Science Monitor

TODAY'S METRO SECTION SPONSORED BY


Kupferberg was a picturesque German mountain town. After World War II, it became Polish Miedzianka, home to a secret Soviet uranium mine. Today, nothing of the town remains. How did it disappear? Who were the people who lived there? And what does it mean to lose your home forever? This is a fascinating true story told by one of Poland's leading journalists.

Magnetic Point by
Ryszard Krynicki
Translated by
Clare Cavanagh
New Directions
Our Life Grows by

Ryszard Krynicki
Translated by
Alissa Valles
New York Review Books
"[Krynicki] has the reputation of a master, of an archer who never misses." — Adam Zagajewski

Two collections by one of the most compelling poets of the 1968 generation. Our Life Grows shows Krynicki early in his career, battling with censorship and the Communist authorities on behalf of freedom of speech. Magnetic Point offers poems from throughout his career — readers will see his youthful rage mature into a cooler, if no less profound, voice.



Holiday tips for parents

We've got you covered on everything from encouraging gratitude and the act of giving to answering questions about Santa's logistics.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
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Just about every family has holiday traditions they hold near and dear, many of which began when they were children.

"Bringing some positive family time into the mix and giving kids something they can look forward to and something they can participate in is something that is important to their development and their feelings of belonging in the family," said Dr. Lauren Knickerbocker, clinical assistant professor at NYU Langone's department of child and adolescent psychiatry.

But this can also be the most stressful time of year for parents, so Metro asked Knickerbocker for tips on how they can get a handle on the holidays, from encouraging gratitude and teaching the act of giving to tackling those oft-dreaded questions regarding Santa's logistics.

Is there a right time to spill the beans about Santa's existence?

Dr. Lauren Knickerbocker: That's a hard one because I think most kids will naturally start to hit that age. The only time I see it be problematic for much older kids who maybe still believe and get teased by their friends, which we don't usually see until



Teaching gratitude "is something you want to think about not just at the holidays but all the time," says Dr. Lauren Knickerbocker of NYU Langone. PROVIDED

they reach the end of elementary school.

Is it wrong to use "Santa is watching" or the Elf on a Shelf to get kids to behave?

I think if people can have fun with it, fine, but thinking about needing all these extra things because you don't have the authority to have your kids listen to you otherwise is probably what the root of the problem would be. You might want to start thinking about other ways to help them understand when they have to follow rules, not just with all these gimmicks.

What are ways parents can teach the act of giving and receiving gifts graciously?

This is something you want to think about not just at the holidays but all the time. It is something you can model quite a bit — saying "thank you" to the people that help you in your daily life at the grocery store or anywhere. Having kids see you with those manners is going to help model that for them as well. Saying, "That person really thought about you, it would be really nice if you could say 'Thank you,' even if it's not your favorite thing in the world, we want someone to feel good for trying to make us feel good."

We bring our kids into it by buying things for other kids and having them come along with us and not having that be separate from them so they see us buying something they would enjoy, too, so we can say, "We want everybody to have a good Christmas, so we're giving this to kids who might not have a good Christmas otherwise."

Have them be part of the donation process, too.

What's the best way to approach questions about different faiths or beliefs?

New York's a great place for this because kids have ample opportunity to know about it, so just give them informa-

tion that some people celebrate Christmas, some people celebrate Hanukkah, some people celebrate other things. And if they ask you what it looks like and you don't know, look it up together. Let the curiosity of the kids guide how you explain those things to them.



The holiday season can be an especially exciting time of year for children. ISTOCK

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Judge cites 'monstrous evil' during sentencing of man in beheading plot

A New York blogger was targeted in an act of retribution.

A Massachusetts man convicted of conspiring to support Islamic

State militants in a 2015 plot to attack police and behead a conservative blogger wept on Tuesday as he asked forgiveness from a judge who sentenced him to 28

years in prison.

U.S. District Judge William Young told David Wright, 28, that he had "embraced a monstrous evil" when he plotted with his uncle

and a friend to travel to New York to attempt to behead conservative blogger Pamela Geller in an act of retribution for her having organized a "Draw Moham-

med" contest.

The group never made the trip, as Wright's uncle, Usaamah Rahim, lost patience and told his co-conspirators that he wanted to kill law enforcement officers in Massachusetts. Agents overheard that conversation, and when police approached Rahim in a supermarket parking lot to question him, authorities say he lunged at them with a knife and was shot dead.

"You are not a monster, yet you embraced a monstrous evil," Young told Wright after sentencing him to less than the life in prison prosecutors had sought. "You've got to live with the fact that you sent your uncle out there to be killed."

Wright, who was not present when his uncle was shot, was found guilty in October of plotting the New York attack as well as destroying evidence.

Geller had agreed with prosecutors in seeking a life term.

"This will never end for me, so it should never end for Daoud Wright. If he gets out, my family

members and me will be in new danger," Geller said, using an alternate name for Wright.

Wright testified during his trial that he had been living in a "fantasy world" when the group discussed plans including somehow hijacking a U.S. warship. He said he was stunned when Rahim attacked police.

"I reject everything that ISIS stands for and represents," Wright said in remarks punctuated by high-pitched sobs. "I want to apologize to law enforcement to the extent that my words or failure to act put them in danger."

His defense lawyers had asked for a sentence of 16 years.

Geller's May 2015 contest in Texas featured cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, images many Muslims consider blasphemous. Two gunmen had attacked that event, and police shot them dead.

Geller said her event was intended as a demonstration of the free-speech rights protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

REUTERS

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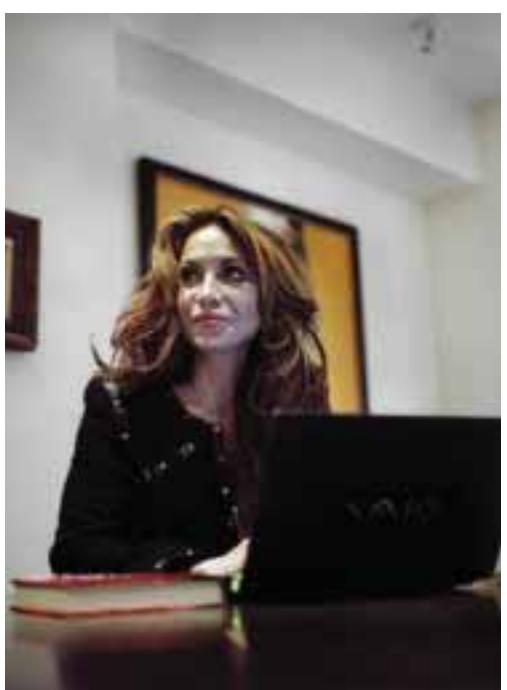
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Conservative blogger Pamela Geller was targeted in an act of retribution.
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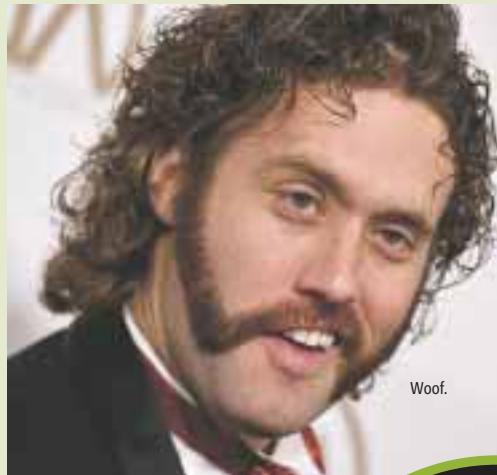
TODAY!

T.J. Miller denies sexual assault allegations

T.J. Miller — who kind of looks like a jester from the American Old West — has been accused of sexually assaulting and punching a woman while studying at George Washington University.

The "Silicon Valley" alum and the alleged victim, who asked to remain anonymous, entered into a relationship in the fall of 2001. She says there were many incidents of abuse in their relationship, telling the Daily Beast the once they were "fooling around" and Miller began "shaking [her] violently" and punched her in the mouth.

Despite the fact that and witnesses have corroborated the woman's story, Miller and his wife released a joint statement, accusing the woman of "using the current climate to bandwagon and launch these false accusations again." Gross.



Woof.

"It is unfortunate that she is choosing this route as it undermines the important movement to make women feel safe coming forward about legitimate claims against real known predators."

Hmm. Could it be that the Millers doth protest too much?

Details on Georgina Chapman's prenup

Georgina Chapman is about to be even richer.

The Marchesa designer announced in October that she was leaving husband Harvey Weinstein. And according to the terms of the former couple's prenuptial agreement, she may receive as much as \$12 million.

According to TMZ, their prenup states that Chapman is supposed to receive \$300,000 annually in spousal support for each year of marriage. But after the 10-year-mark — which happened to be last Friday — that amount jumps up to

\$400,000 for each year of marriage.

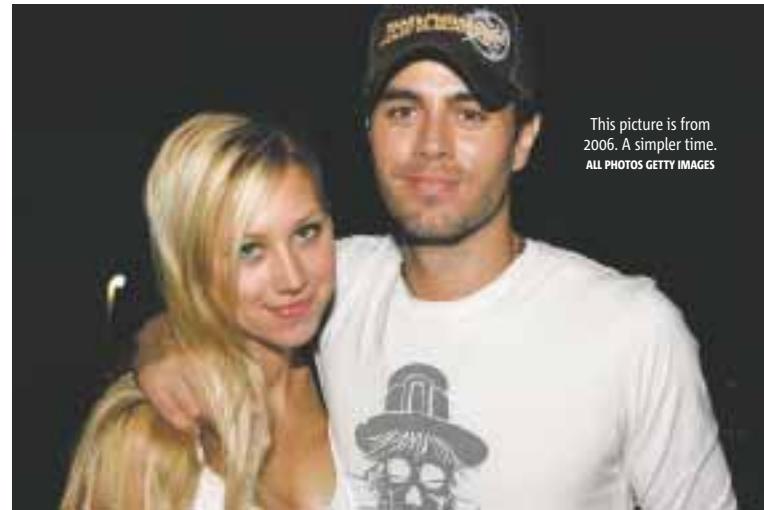
She will also reportedly get a lump sum payment of \$4.75 million for her share of marital assets, and \$3 million for a housing allowance.

The catch? The prenup is basically a gag order — both parties must agree not to publish diaries, letters or photographs, and can't talk about the relationship in interviews.

To be fair, Weinstein is reportedly worth \$250 million, and Chapman is worth about \$20 million. So \$11.75 mil? That's basically pennies for these two.



A pretty penny.



This picture is from 2006. A simpler time.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Enrique & Anna are parents now

Remember Enrique Iglesias and Anna Kournikova? Same! Well, here's some news about them: They secretly had twins the other day.

The couple kept the pregnancy under wraps, and welcomed a boy and a girl on Saturday

in Miami. Their names, according to TMZ, are Nicholas and Lucy. Normal!

A source confirmed the news to People, saying "I saw her cute belly. A friend told me like five months ago [that] they were pregnant but keeping it very, very undercover."

The newborns are the first children of both Iglesias, 42, and Kournikova, 36. They've been together for over a decade.

Well, congratulations to y'all — on the babies and being, shockingly, relatively normal. Mazel!



Meryl says she didn't know



She. Didn't. Know!

Meryl Streep would like to remind you: She did not know.

Over the weekend, Rose McGowan took to Twitter to call out "The Post" actress. "Actresses, like Meryl Streep, who happily worked for The Pig Monster, are wearing black @golden-globes in a silent protest," she wrote. "YOUR SILENCE IS THE problem."

McGowan later deleted the tweet, but Streep issued a very long statement to the Huffington Post in response.

"It hurt to be attacked by Rose

McGowan in banner headlines this weekend," she wrote. "But I want to let her know I did not know about Weinstein's crimes.

"I wasn't deliberately silent," she continues. "I didn't know. I don't tacitly approve of rape. I didn't know. I don't like young women being assaulted. I didn't know this was happening."

So to be clear, Streep did not know. Just in case you weren't convinced by her saying, "I didn't know" multiple times in rapid succession.



20TH CENTURY FOX

"The Greatest Showman"

Director: Michael Gracey
Stars: Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron
Rating: PG



As a big-budget musical, "The Greatest Showman" has plenty of splendor and spectacle, making it a genuinely uplifting and gorgeous watch. The cast simmers with passion and heart. And director Michael

Gracey enhances and elevates the rousing musical sequences: the songs never feel gratuitous. Instead, they are rooted in the characters and actors who perform them.

The major issue is that the plot falls completely flat. While the overall story is intriguing, the film never delves into it with enough detail to strike a chord. By the end of its running time, you're left wanting much more.

Ultimately, "The Greatest Showman" feels more like an amalgamation of undeniably catchy music videos than a coherent film. Thankfully, though, it still provides more than enough moments of pomp, joy and poignancy to stop you from judging those shortcomings too harshly.

GREGORY WAKEMAN

"Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle"

Director: Jake Kasdan
Stars: Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart
Rating: PG-13



The original "Jumanji" was memorable for its sense of chaos

and genuine peril. But its followup plays it too safe to do the same. The beats of the film are too familiar to get overly excited about, and its conclusion is needlessly overcomplicated. It's never not enjoyable, though: What does keep "Jumanji: Welcome To The Jungle" bobbing along is its sense of humor.

Kevin Hart and Jack Black,

especially, bring plenty of laughs, selling the surreal absurdity of their plight in a relatable way that takes advantage of their best qualities. So while everything plays out in a relatively tame and predictable manner, the "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" has enough fun and laughs to be deemed worthwhile — but ultimately, forgettable. **gw**



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Is *The Last Jedi* a good movie?

We've got 10 reasons why the latest "Star Wars" film fell short of expectations.



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The latest "Star Wars" movie has broken the internet almost as efficiently as Kim Kardashian's Champagne trick.

Those who like it think director Rian Johnson gut-renovated the Star Wars universe into a smarter and more relevant franchise. Others think he made a bad movie that sacrificed character for plot and would rather send it right back to the galaxy far, far away from whence it came, with no return address.

With "The Last Jedi's" Rotten Tomatoes rating hovering at 55 percent, we're taking a look at five things we loved about the film, and five things that definitely didn't work.

THE GOOD

1 No one expected the revelation that Rey's parents sold her into slavery because they needed money. But it made sense in the grander scheme of the film: that you didn't need to be named Skywalker or Kenobi to be important in the universe.

2 Not even the best First Order vs. the Resistance dogfight could compare to the best fight of the movie, and that was Kylo Ren and Rey against Snoke's Praetorian guards. It was both



Character development like Luke Skywalker deciding to leave exile didn't get enough breathing room. ALL PHOTOS DISNEY



Kylo Ren went from the series' most interesting character to just another stock villain.

beautiful and brutal, with clever weapons, balletic movements and promised a truly spectacular clash to come between the two all-too-brief allies.

3 The film's denouement of Vice Admiral Holdo doing a suicide run at lightspeeding to destroy Snoke's ship was a brilliant move. Silence was the perfect choice for the soundtrack, showing that even John Williams knows when less is more.

4 It didn't get nearly enough screen time, but we loved Dark BB-8, aka BB-9E. With all of the First Order's fancy tech, and you know Phasma doesn't train fools, it was still the first to sniff out Finn and Rose as impostors. Give that droid a promotion!

5 Making Poe Dameron an egotistical flyboy whose plan for glory goes pear-shaped was an interesting character arc. Try-

ing to be a hero on your own terms is what gets people into trouble — and it could've gotten Finn and Rose killed — so learning to trust the people next to you is analogous to feeling the Force that binds the universe together.

THE BAD

1 Having more ladies in charge is great — but not when you undermine them with a plotline like Vice Admiral Holdo withholding her plan for escaping the First Order from the commander of her own fleet. Yes, the Resistance is a military operation, but isn't the whole point of having women in charge that we get rid of the "because I said so" system and create a more open, transparent and collaborative system?

2 Luke Skywalker being revealed as the rea-



Poe Dameron got knocked down a peg in "The Last Jedi."

3 General Hux was a fascinating and nuanced character in "The Force Awakens." Consider: In his mid-30s, Hux is in charge of the First Order's military strategy and was the brilliant engineer who designed Starkiller base. In "The Last Jedi," he becomes a cartoonish villain without an ounce of the careful strategist we glimpsed. You don't get this high up in the First Order by boot-licking and being hotheaded.

4 "Star Wars" was always a character-driven saga — but "The Last Jedi" was too concerned in going from fight scene to chase scene to bother with giving the character moments brother breathing room. The film's action takes place over

about 24 hours, which is hardly enough time for the emotional high notes of the film — Kylo Ren and Rey's Force-bond and Luke Skywalker deciding he wants back in the fight — to resonate.

5 With movie after movie of conflicted heroes, "The Force Awakens" gave us something even more interesting: a conflicted villain. When Kylo Ren reached out to Rey after their fight with Snoke's guards, it was supposed to be a man who's been betrayed by the light side of the Force and cannot find what he needs on the Dark either looking for a way forward with the only other person who he feels a connection with. Except no, he basically killed Snoke to show Rey that he cared about her, but in a "together we shall rule the galaxy" way. How did he suddenly become so cozy on the Dark Side?

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Anthony Bourdain's tips for amazing eggnog

There's no better way to get boozy during the holiday season than learning how to make eggnog.

The creamy beverage is one of Anthony Bourdain's favorite Christmas treats, and the "Parts Unknown" host has perfected his take on the drink over the years. During a recent chat with Metro, Bourdain admitted that he developed a love for eggnog as a kid because it was the only alcoholic drink he was allowed to sip before he turned of age.

"Christmas, I'm a big eggnog fan," Bourdain says. "I have a real soft spot for that. It was the only drink that I was allowed to drink with abandon as a minor."

As a seasoned chef, Bourdain, of course, laughs at the thought of drinking the store-bought variety.



GETTY IMAGES



What's better than eggnog during the holidays? iStock

"I don't buy that stuff at 7-Eleven," Bourdain says. "I use the old Craig Claiborne recipe."

Dating back to 1958 and considered the gold standard in culinary circles, Claiborne's eggnog involves the usual items like eggs and cream, but it also uses bourbon and cognac, which help to loosen the mixture of beaten yolks and sugar. Once that concoction is

folded into the whipped cream and whipped egg whites, it creates a "faintly boozy chiffon," according to the Times. The recipe suggests adding salt to the egg whites as well, which helps "sharpen the flavors."

For Bourdain, though,

the key is to make sure to

do everything by hand—

and don't skimp on the

alcohol.

"It's three different boozes and handmade, whisked cream, egg," Bourdain says. "It's awesome." MATT JUUL

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Retail vacancies in Williamsburg cause concern

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL
The Real Estate News About New York

Retailers kicking tires in the growing Williamsburg retail district have more than changing shopping habits to worry about.

The looming L train shutdown has put the brakes on leasing activity in the Brooklyn neighborhood, where the vacancy rate is roughly 13 percent, according to a recent analysis by The Real Deal.

Tenants "are reluctant to do a deal until the train situation is resolved," said Jason Pruger, a retail broker with Newmark

Knight Frank.

Last month, TRD walked a 22-block swath of central Williamsburg — from Grand Street to North 11th Street and from Bedford Avenue to Wythe Avenue — and checked on the nearly 600 buildings there, finding 105,000 square feet of vacancies out of the area's total 827,000 square feet of retail.

While "for rent" signs are spread around the neighborhood, the two streets with the most empty storefronts are Bedford Avenue, Williamsburg's main shopping stretch, and North 6th Street.

Bedford Avenue has about 26,000 square feet of vacancies out of its

total of about 212,000 square feet of retail space, according to TRD's survey. That's a vacancy rate of about 12 percent. It's also the priciest retail corridor in the borough, with rents along the street averaging \$325 a square foot, according to a report from the Real Estate Board of New York. Yet that average is a 13 percent decline from a year ago, when the average asking rent was \$373 per foot.

North 6th Street has roughly 22,000 square feet of empty storefronts — primarily sandwiched between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue — out of about 89,000 square feet of retail, for a vacancy rate of 25 percent.



The corner of Bedford Ave and N. 6th St. in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. ISTOCK

Repairs to the L train's Canarsie Tunnel will span 15 months, starting in April 2019. Though L trains will operate within Brooklyn, there will be no service connecting the borough to Manhattan.

Christine Blackburn of brokerage Compass said there was a pause in Williamsburg's retail leasing market after the shutdown was announced last year.

"Everybody took three

months to digest that information," she said. Blackburn estimated that some existing tenants will push for rent reductions of between 5 percent and 7 percent.

Donal Flaherty of Brooklyn-based investment sales brokerage Bestreich Realty said locking in a tenant at a lower rate for a contract that would last much longer than the L train shutdown doesn't make

sense in the long term. Landlords would rather wait until the L train opens again and seek a higher-paying tenant at that time.

Compass's Blackburn said the shock of the shutdown was waning, and she expects the market to pick up again soon.

"The closer we get to the shutdown," she said, "the closer we get to the end of the shutdown."

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How to make *a last-minute* holiday card



#Goals. **ISTOCK**

Create your own photo booth so you can take your holiday photos at home.



KATE MOONEY
@yatinybrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

So you haven't made a holiday card yet, and you're worried that with everything else piling up on your end-of-the-year to-do list, you might have to skip it. That's fine, no judgment. But if you want, you can still pull it off, if you change your approach.

For one, stop thinking you have to send in time for Christmas, when you could make a perfectly acceptable New Year's card instead. Secondly, you don't have to get all fancy or hire a professional photographer. You can put together a charming, cheery photo on your own by creating your own DIY photo booth, borrowing a friend (or a tripod) and downloading a decent photo-editing app. Here's everything you need to pull it off.

Grab a friend or
a tripod

Surely you have a pal who will do you the solid of snapping like, 10 photos of you. If not, invest in a cheap tripod for your smartphone. For \$10.99, Amazon Prime has an "Octopus style" portable and adjustable tripod stand holder for smartphones that you can set up as needed. Then all you need to do is set the photo timer on your phone, which you can do by opening your photo app, tapping the timer icon in the top right and selecting three or 10 seconds.

Create your own backdrop

Background
Pick a blank wall in

your home that will serve as the photo's backdrop. Simple but effective decorating options include taping up festive wrapping paper, tacking up a piece of fabric, hanging streamers, stringing holiday lights — the list goes on. This is where Pinterest comes in! (And if you're too lazy to do it yourself, you can always order a themed photobooth kit, backdrops, props and all, off Amazon Prime.)

Gather your props

These will depend on your theme, whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, etc, but definitely do not spend much moola on photo-booth props. Source Party City, the dollar store, or Amazon Prime to find your goofy wigs, Santa hats, plastic menorahs, 2018 glasses, ball drops, you get the idea.

Get the lighting right

Don't rely on overhead lighting; you'll need a light source you can aim directly on your photo-booth to make sure your photo is bright enough. A tree lamp with adjustable spotlights, as will a work light that you can clamp on to where you need it. If you need to dim the light, you can cover it with a white sheet — just make sure it's not directly touching the bulb so 2017 doesn't go up in flames.

Final edits

Once you've taken a photo you don't hate, you can touch it up on Instagram or with a free iPhone photo-editing app like VSCO or Adobe Photoshop Express. You can create a custom holiday card at the photo department of any Walgreen's or do it on your phone with apps such as Pic Collage, Greetings, or just Wink. Print and you're done!

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1 bedroom		\$642	8	→ 1 person 2 people	\$24,549 - \$26,720 \$24,549 - \$30,560		\$999	12	→ 1 person 2 people	\$36,788 - \$40,080 \$36,788 - \$45,840
2 bedrooms		\$784	1	→ 3 people 4 people	\$29,451 - \$34,360 \$29,451 - \$38,160		\$1,213	4	→ 3 people 4 people	\$44,160 - \$51,540 \$44,160 - \$57,240
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Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Affordable Housing Dept. 1561, 1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **February 16, 2018**. Late applications will not be considered.

Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a Affordable Housing Dept. 1561, 1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH". Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de **16 de febrero 2018**.

简体中文 访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版, 请将您的回邮信封寄送至: Affordable Housing Dept. 1561, 1357 Broadway, Box 309, New York, NY 10018。信封背面请用英语注明 "CHINESE"。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或 邮寄书面申请2018年2月16日。

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Isles returning home to Nassau

Islanders look as though they have been awarded the site at Belmont Park where they can build a permanent home..

 JOE PANTORNO
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The New York Islanders' bid to build a new arena near Belmont Race Track in Elmont has been selected by Empire State Development (ESD), sources told Newsday's Jim Baumbach on Tuesday.

Metro reached out to ESD and Sen. Todd Kaminsky for confirmation, but they did not reply by this edition's deadline.

An official announcement is expected to come at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at the site with Gov. Andrew Cuomo on hand.

Working alongside Sterling Project Devel-

opment and Oak View Group, the Islanders' new arena is expected to hold 18,000 patrons, though that number could be around 16,500 for NHL games.

There is also a 200- to 250-room hotel, 435,000 square feet of retail space and a 10,000-square foot "innovation" center, per Baumbach.

In earlier reports, it was discovered that the Islanders are looking to break ground on the new site sometime during the spring of 2018.

It is just the first step for the Islanders, who still need to get out of their current 25-year lease with the Barclays Center. After 43 years at the Nassau Coliseum in Hempstead, NY, the team was forced to pack up and head to Brooklyn where it was quickly apparent that the two parties did not provide a good match.

The Barclays Center is a venue built for basket-



Reports have surfaced that the Islanders won the bid to build a new arena near Belmont Park in Elmont. GETTY IMAGES

ball and 28 miles away from the Coliseum, where a majority of the fanbase is located. Obstructed-view seats and a tedious commute to the arena drove attendance numbers down and each side looking for a way out.

They have until Jan. 1 before negotiations are stopped and must officially opt out before Jan. 30. However, they will play at Barclays through the 2018-19 season before leaving. Depending on the progress of the new arena,

the Islanders might need a temporary home for the 2019-20 season.

Belmont Race Track is just seven miles down Hempstead Tpke. from the team's original home, though most fans will likely have to take a train



to the game considering there might only be 2,000 spaces for parking.

Regardless, the move back to Nassau County to a hockey-first arena dedicated to the franchise is an enormous win for the Islanders and their fans, who have been relegated to nomadic-like statuses over the past few seasons.

It was a bullish effort from Islanders owners Jon Ledecky and Scott Malkin, who made their intentions clear after submitting a bid to ESD on Sept. 28 that it was Belmont or bust. Ledecky was quoted earlier in December saying that Belmont was the only option the team had for a new arena.

They got it done. That will score them plenty of brownie points among the fan base.

New York City FC of MLS was the opposing bidder of the Belmont site as they were looking for a 26,000-seat, open-air stadium with two soccer facilities and a public park.

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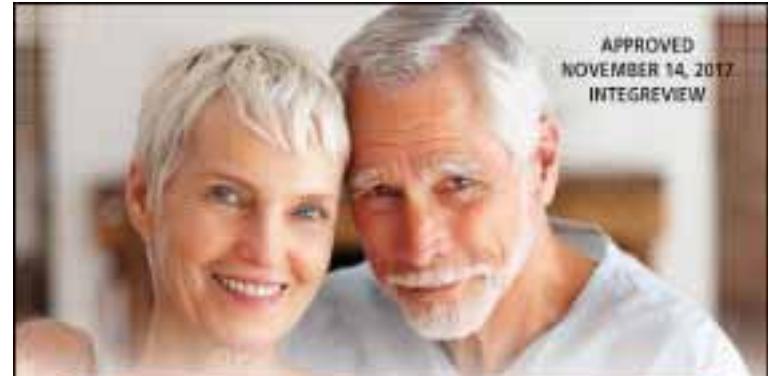
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Tim Hardaway Jr.'s left leg injury has deprived the Knicks of their second-leading scorer, but is the offense underperforming without him? GETTY IMAGES

How much are the Knicks missing THJ?



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While Tim Hardaway Jr. continues to recover from a left leg injury, Metro takes a look at the difference between the Knicks with and without the guard in their lineup.

 JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The New York Knicks discovered that they will be without guard Tim Hardaway Jr. for just a little while longer after he underwent tests and an X-ray on his injured left leg on Tuesday.

According to the team, Hardaway will continue with his rehabilitation and court work and will be re-evaluated next week.

Hardaway has missed the last nine games dating back to Dec. 3 after suffering a stress injury to the leg.

The 25-year-old has been with the team and has been seen wearing a walking boot and brace. Prior to Monday night's game against the Charlotte Hornets, Hardaway was seen doing some light shooting with the brace

on.

Regardless, there was a fear that Hardaway's stress injury could have been a fracture, which would have sidelined him much longer than the expected timetable of his return.

It would have been a nightmare scenario for the guard who signed a four-year, \$71 million deal to rejoin the Knicks after two seasons away with the Atlanta Hawks. New York drafted Hardaway 24th overall in 2013 out of Michigan.

While his contract was a head-scratcher to many considering he has never been able to carry an offense, Hardaway has been the Robin to Kristaps Porzingis' Batman within the Knicks offense.

In 21 games, he was averaging 17.8 points and 3.3 assists per night, both of which rank second on the team.

Without Hardaway over the past nine games, the Knicks are 5-4, including an 18-point beatdown at the hands of the Hornets on Monday night. But are the Knicks really playing worse without Hardaway in the lineup?

The numbers suggest that this team could possibly survive without him:

KNICKS STATS WITH HARDAWAY

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47.1 FG%
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9 GAMES
103.9 PPG
47.3 FG%
38.6 3FG%
21.9 APG

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Across

- 1 Partly closed
- 5 Uplift
- 10 Feels under par
- 14 3-D shape
- 15 Meeting's location
- 16 Oak or maple
- 17 La femme
- 18 Wide awake
- 19 Bathe
- 20 Poor grades
- 21 Used a copier
- 23 False reason
- 25 Net surfers
- 26 Shelley offering
- 27 Little bit
- 29 Yard protector
- 33 Fossil-fuel source (2 wds.)
- 38 Yodeler's answer
- 39 Slight degree of coloration
- 41 Dismounted
- 42 Emphasized print
- 44 Biathlon weapon
- 45 Diving bird
- 46 DDE's party
- 48 Finish-line markers
- 52 Evening gowns
- 56 Remodeling
- 59 Clean a counter
- 61 Odds and ends, briefly
- 62 Concentrated
- 63 Famous – cookies
- 64 Tampico cash

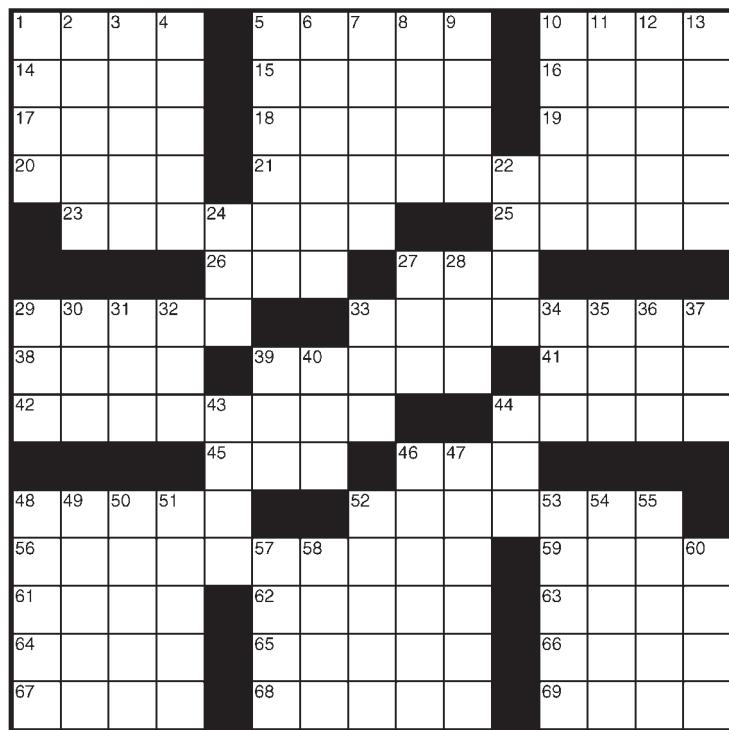
Down

- 1 Did extremely well
- 2 Minty quaff
- 3 Better trained
- 4 "Touched by an Angel" actress Della –
- 5 Weasled out of
- 6 Posh
- 7 Clueless
- 8 Roll tightly
- 9 Bigfoot cousin
- 10 Book of maps
- 11 Really ticked
- 12 Crowbar
- 13 Garden starters
- 22 Takes a knife to
- 65 Gavel-banger's cry
- 66 Cell block brawl
- 67 Bird-feeder treat
- 68 Inclined to back talk
- 69 Noted lava spewer

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27 Lively dance
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31 Calgary Flames' org.
32 Food fish
33 1300 hours
34 Yes, in Kyoto
35 Chatty alien
36 – Abner, of the comics
37 Monsieur's summer
39 Frat letter
40 Gross!
43 Rapid
44 LP speed
46 Tickles
47 Crabby
48 Fills a pipe
49 Leave-taking
50 Outmoded
51 Orlando attraction
52 Good buys
53 Not in a fog
54 Ceiling
55 Serving utensil
57 Commotions
58 Prefix for "trillion"
60 Como – usted?

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easy

1	4		6		7	2	
9	7						3
6	5	8			1		
					8		
1	6		9		2	8	
					1		
3				5	1	8	
7				6	3		
6	5		8		4		2

hard

3	8	7		2		
	2			9		
	6	4	2		5	9
4		5		9	1	
8	9		7			5
6	1		7	8	5	
			3		6	
8		5	1		7	

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Aries Emotional purchases or spontaneous changes will be met with regret once you have time to think about what you've done or signed up for.



Taurus Don't let emotions overrule common sense. Take care of professional and financial matters responsibly to ease your stress and better enjoy your downtime.



Gemini Instinctive emotional actions will lead to regret. Don't make promises you cannot keep. Commitments must be realistic. Learn from your mistakes to avoid criticism.



Cancer Headstrong actions will be costly. Don't sign up for something that could break your budget. Walk away from situations that appear to be unpredictable.



Leo Stay focused on what you have yet to accomplish. Leaving unfinished business for someone else to take care of will make you look bad. Avoid indulgent behavior.



Virgo Your discipline will help you conquer whatever task or responsibility you are handed. A positive attitude will be helpful when dealing with something you find confusing.



Libra Don't get all worked up over nothing. Embrace whatever comes your way and turn it into something that is beneficial to you. A personal change looks inviting.



Scorpio Look for unusual lifestyle choices to come up with the perfect way to spend the holiday season. A disciplined approach to money matters will help decrease debt.



Sagittarius Common sense should be a priority when dealing with others. Be honest and expect the same in return. Truth matters and will shape what unfolds from now on.



Capricorn Listen to your heart and share your thoughts with someone you feel close to. Don't let people from your past disrupt your life. Avoid making hasty decisions.



Aquarius Don't be tempted by people making rash or erratic choices. You are best off taking a wait-and-see attitude, especially if money or your physical health is at stake.



Pisces Not everyone will be forthcoming regarding what they want. Do what will help you the most. Take care of unfinished personal business. **EUGENIA LAST**

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R U E D	Y E A R L Y	
V O C A L L Y	G S A	
C A L L A	L A N G U I D L Y	
R H O	M A M A S	R O O
S U P P L A N T S	M A N O R	
R U G	T W O S O M E	
I M A G E S	Y O D A	
E D I T	L A P	K E R M I T
R E N T	L U I S	L U E G O
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